

On page 6, lines 10-17, please replace the existing paragraph with the following paragraph:

D2 Fig. 2c shows the exterior handle 31, which is connected to the door lock 5, and whose associated insert part 32 has no closing cylinder but an infrared receiver 32b (shown in Figure 1) of an automatic control system of the door lock 5. The infrared receiver 32b serves to receive a control signal with which the locking pawl or rotary spring bolt 6 of the door lock 5 is unlatched and locked by means of servo motors (not shown). The embodiment illustrated here is particularly suitable for passenger doors and boot lids. For the vehicle door it is advantageous to provide the insert part 32 with both the infrared receiver 32b of the automatic control system of the door lock 5 and a closing cylinder 31' for emergency opening of the vehicle door.

REMARKS

Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the above-identified application by the current amendment. The attached page is captioned "Version with markings to show changes made."

This amendment is submitted in response to the Office Action dated August 8, 2002. Claims 1-12 remain in the application and are currently pending.

On page 2 of the Office Action, the drawings are objected to under 37 CFR 1.83(a). The Examiner states that the infrared receiver and illumination means must be shown in the figures. Applicants have amended Figure 1 to show the infrared receiver 32b and illumination means 32c, as requested. See the accompanying Request for Approval of Drawing Change. Approval of the new Figure 1 is hereby requested. The specification has been amended to refer to the infrared receiver 32b and illumination means 32c.

On page 2 of the Office Action, the specification is objected to based on several informalities. Applicants respectfully point out that these informalities have been addressed in the Substitute

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Specification filed on August 8, 2003. A copy of this Substitute Specification, Compare Copy, Preliminary Amendment, and return post card are attached. Applicants therefore request that the objection to the specification be withdrawn.

On pages 2-3 of the Office Action, claims 1, 2, 5-8 and 12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as allegedly being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,927,772 to Antonucci et al. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

method [Claim 1 recites "a connecting element which can be inserted from the exterior skin." On page 3 of the Office Action, the Examiner contends that the "spring locking member 53" of Antonucci corresponds to the connecting element of claim 1. The Examiner has not pointed out and Applicants cannot find any teaching or suggestion in Antonucci, however, that the spring locking member 53 can be inserted from the exterior skin. Antonucci discloses that the spring locking member 53 is blocked from any exterior space by a paddle 11 and a complicatedly constructed housing 12, and runs substantially parallel to the paddle 11 (Figures 1-4). This paddle 11 also runs parallel to panels 300 and 301 (Figures 5a and 6a). Applicants cannot find any teaching or suggestion that the spring locking member 53 is insertable into any element that may correspond to the exterior skin of Applicants' claim 1. Because Antonucci does not teach or suggest all of the limitations of claim 1, Applicants respectfully request that claim 1 and its dependent claims 2, 5-8 and 12 be withdrawn.

With respect to claim 2, Applicants repeat the arguments discussed with respect to claim 1. Claim 2 additionally recites that "the insert part has a closing cylinder and an infrared receiver." *one of the two* The Examiner has not pointed out and Applicants cannot find any teaching or suggestion in Antonucci of an infrared receiver. Because Antonucci does not teach or suggest all of the limitations of claim 2, as discussed also in relation to claim 1, above, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of claim 2 and its dependent

claim 3 be withdrawn.

With respect to claim 5, Applicants repeat the arguments discussed with respect to claim 1. Claim 5 additionally recites that "a compressing spring is supported between the insert part and the connecting element to resiliently support and restrict the setting path of the exterior handle." On page 3 of the Office Action, the Examiner states that Figure 1 of Antonucci shows that the compressing spring "51 is between [the locking member] 53 and outermost portion of [lock plug] 23." Figure 1, however, clearly shows that compressing spring 51 is spaced apart from the lock plug 23 and projects in a parallel direction to it, as shown by the arrows near 51 and 23. Because Antonucci does not teach or suggest all of the limitations of claim 5, as discussed also in relation to claim 1, above, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of claim 5 be withdrawn.

With respect to claim 6, Applicants repeat the arguments discussed with respect to claim 1. Claim 6 recites that the "exterior handle for resilient support is tensioned with a handle shell through a spring." The Examiner has not pointed out and Applicants cannot find any teaching or suggestion of a handle shell at all in Antonucci, or a spring that tensions the handle to a handle shell through a spring. Because Antonucci does not teach or suggest all of the limitations of claim 6, as discussed also in relation to claim 1, above, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of claim 6 be withdrawn.

With respect to claim 7, Applicants repeat the arguments discussed with respect to claim 1. Claim 7 recites that "the insert part can be fixed relative to the exterior skin through at least one opening in an interior skin of the wing." On page 3 of the Office Action, the Examiner contends that the "opening" in panel 300 in Figure 5a of Antonucci "extends from exterior to an interior skin." Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection. The Examiner has not pointed out and Applicants cannot find any teaching or suggestion in

*interior
opening
for 11
in 300*

Antonucci of an interior skin at all. Applicants, likewise, cannot find any teaching or suggestion of an opening in the interior skin or that the insert part can be fixed to the exterior skin through such an opening. Because Antonucci does not teach or suggest all of the limitations of claim 7, as discussed also in relation to claim 1, above, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of claim 7 be withdrawn.

*insert part
is connected
through
hole*

With respect to claim 8, Applicants repeat the arguments discussed with respect to claim 1. Claim 8 recites that "the insert part is connected for positive locking engagement with a handle shell." The Examiner states on page 3 that the handle shell is "connected at 70." Applicants cannot, however, determine what element the Examiner is referring to as connected at the opening 70. In fact, it does not appear that any part is connected to the opening 70, as the handle 11 must be allowed to pivot in relation to the housing 12. Because Antonucci does not teach or suggest all of the limitations of claim 8, as discussed also in relation to claim 1, above, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of claim 8 be withdrawn.

With respect to claim 12, Applicants repeat the arguments discussed with respect to claim 1. Claim 12 additionally recites that "a locking pawl is the blocking element." Because Antonucci does not teach or suggest all of the limitations of claim 12, as discussed also in relation to claim 1, above, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of claim 12 be withdrawn.

On page 4 of the Office Action, claim 3 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as allegedly being obvious over U.S. Patent No. 5,927,772 to Antonucci et al. in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,095,659 to Benoit et al. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

With respect to claim 3, Applicants repeat the arguments discussed with respect to claims 1 and 2. Claim 3 additionally recites that "the insert part has illumination means." The Examiner states on page 4 of the Office Action that Antonucci does not teach

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or suggest an illumination means, but modification of Antonucci to include the illumination means taught in Benoit would have allegedly been obvious to one skilled in the art. Applicants point out, however, that the Benoit patent had issued and was published six years prior to the filing date of Antonucci, yet Antonucci does not teach or suggest addition of an illumination means and states no motivation to do so. Because the combined references do not teach or suggest all of the limitations of claim 3, as discussed also in relation to claims 1 and 2, above, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of claim 3 be withdrawn.

Applicants note with appreciation the Examiner's indication on page 4 of the Office Action that claims 4 and 9-11 are allowable if rewritten in independent form.

In view of the above, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the application and the allowance of claims 1-12.

Respectfully submitted,

CHRISTIE, PARKER & HALE, LLP

By



Mark Garscia
Reg. No. 31,953
626/795-9900

MEG/rah

VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

In the Specification:

On page 3, lines 33-36, please replace the existing paragraph with the following paragraph:

Fig. 1 shows an opened vehicle door 1 on which a window pane 2 is mounted. The vehicle door 1 has an exterior handle assembly 3 with exterior handle 31, an insert part 32 as well as a closing cylinder 32'. The closing cylinder 32' is thereby mounted in the insert part 32. The insert part 32 can also include an illumination unit 32c. Both the insert part 32 and exterior handle 31 are able to be mounted from the outside of the door.

On page 6, lines 10-17, please replace the existing paragraph with the following paragraph:

Fig. 2c shows the exterior handle 31, which is connected to the door lock 5, and whose associated insert part 32 has no closing cylinder but an infrared receiver 32b (shown in Figure 1) of an automatic control system of the door lock 5. The infrared receiver 32b serves to receive a control signal with which the locking pawl or rotary spring bolt 6 of the door lock 5 is unlatched and locked by means of servo motors (not shown). The embodiment illustrated here is particularly suitable for passenger doors and boot lids. For the vehicle door it is advantageous to provide the insert part 32 with both the infrared receiver 32b of the automatic control system of the door lock 5 and a closing cylinder 31' for emergency opening of the vehicle door.